

From numerous microscopic sections, both of the semicartilaginous skeleton and that of the skin, there is not the slightest doubt regarding the bone of the skeleton and the shagreen of the skin. In sections of the latter I have exposed the dermal tubercles resting upon and attached to the skin.

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May 27.

*On the two (?) unknown Species of Argus Pheasant.*

*To the Editors of the Annals and Magazine of Natural History.*

GENTLEMEN,—Permit me to make a few remarks on the feathers of the two (?) unknown species of Argus Pheasant.

The largest feather, as figured in Mr. Elliot's 'Monograph of the Phasianidæ,' part 5, is undoubtedly a relic of a bird which, when found, will probably prove to be *generically* distinct from *Argus*, so different is it in form from any feather of the known species of that genus. Of the other two feathers, which Mr. Elliot supposes to be primaries of the same bird, I have a very different opinion, believing them to be feathers of the true tail (as distinguished from the ornamental tail-coverts) of the Javan Peacock, *Pavo muticus*. I suspected this on first looking at the plate; and on examining the tail-feathers of that bird in the British Museum this opinion was confirmed, the form, colour, and markings being identical. I also found by comparison that the drawings of these feathers are of exactly the same dimensions as the real ones of *P. muticus*; whereas Mr. Elliot states them to be represented only half the natural size. This is probably a mistake; but if not, the bird to which they belonged must have been, in all probability, a very large variety or species of the genus *Pavo*.

I also wish to state that the feather which I described as belonging to an unknown bird related to *Argus* also presents certain peculiarities which seem to indicate that the bird to which it belongs is *generically* distinct; and I regret that Mr. Elliot, in quoting from the 'Annals,' omitted the note of interrogation which I placed after the word *Argus*, as I think he will agree with me that the *generic* positions of these birds can only be approximately determined from their feathers.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours very truly,

T. W. WOOD.

London, June 15th, 1872.

*Note on a Deformed Example of Cariama cristata.*

By Dr. A. GÜNTHER.

There is in the British Museum a stuffed example of a *Cariama* which differs from *C. cristata* in so striking a manner, by the shortness of its neck and legs, that it might be easily taken for a distinct species. However, on a closer examination, I have convinced myself